

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method for controlling access to secured information for a predetermined region of a
5 computer generated original image presented on a display, comprising:
determining whether a user is authorized to access said secured information; and,
in response to said determining, distorting said original image to produce a distorted
region for said predetermined region to provide said user with said secured information
on said display.
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2. The method of claim 1 and further comprising, in response to said determining,
uncovering said distorted region.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said determining further comprises receiving
15 authentication information from said user and comparing said authentication information to
stored authentication information for said user.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said authentication information includes a user
identification number and a password.
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5. The method of claim 3 wherein said authentication information is received through a
dialog box.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said dialog box is presented adjacent to said
25 predetermined region.
7. The method of claim 1 and further comprising receiving a signal from said user to select
said predetermined region.
- 30 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said signal is generated by moving a cursor on said
display with a pointing device.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said pointing device is a mouse.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein said secured information is detailed information.
- 5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said detailed information is a magnified image.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said secured information is encrypted information.
- 10 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said distorting further comprises decrypting said encrypted information.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein said original image includes a graphic image, a photographic image, and a text image.
- 15 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said distorting further includes:
creating a lens surface for said distorted region; and,
transforming said original image by applying a distortion function defining said lens surface to said original image.
- 20 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said creating further includes displaying a graphical user interface ("GUI") over said distorted region for adjusting said lens surface.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein said lens surface includes a focal region and a base and said GUI includes: a slide bar icon for adjusting a magnification for said lens surface; a slide bar icon for adjusting a degree of scooping for said lens surface; a bounding rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said focal region; a bounding rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said base; a move icon for adjusting a location for said lens surface within said original image; a pickup icon for adjusting a location for said base within said original image; and, a fold icon for adjusting a location for said focal region relative to said base.
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18. The method of claim 3 wherein said authentication information is biometric information.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said biometric information includes fingerprint, iris pattern, voice pattern, and DNA pattern information.

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20. A method for accessing detailed information for a predetermined region of a computer generated original image presented on a display, comprising:

determining whether a user is authorized to access said detailed information; and,

in response to said determining, distorting said original image to produce a distorted

10 region for said predetermined region to provide said user with said detailed information on said display.

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